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per se. It felt that there were other processes working on And that's primarily what we worked on. that. committee, and from the work that they did, I pulled some of the interested parties together to work on legislation. started about a year and a half ago, two years ago, over the interim. And this bill...several bills were introduced. Education Committee revised those bills, combined them. So what was introduced as part of LB 1399 isn't exactly what I had proposed initially, but it was the work of the Education Committee and what they felt would be the best approach in a loan forgiveness program. And they changed the bill so that it would target people who are going into subject shortage areas, and also target a repayment system for those teaching in sparsely populated areas or poverty schools in the state. bill...fiscal note for the bill is the one that was developed by the State Department of Education based on the number of people they felt would qualify. It requires a 3.0 grade point average, the number that would be going into these specialized areas. Let me tell you some of the reasons for this bill. And this bill is not so much the salary issue, although some of my colleagues have talked about that. This bill is to bring people into the pipeline, to encourage students to go into teaching, and also to highlight the importance of teaching as a career and the fact that we as a state recognize the importance of teaching as a career and hope that they will look at this as a valued part of our heritage as a state and consider being a teacher. The teacher training institutions will recruit the best and the brightest to these programs. And by repaying their loan, will be able to encourage them to stay in our state. These are students attending our teacher training institutions, and they are students that we hope, through the process, have an interest in staying in the state. There are a couple of things that do impact them financially. One of the themes that we heard over and over again for people coming into teaching in Nebraska is, because the salaries are not particularly high salaries, that it's difficult for them to have a student loan, pay an apartment, pay a car payment. And that's one of the prohibitors sometimes for students who might want to teach being able to teach. So by having ...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.